

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A method of moulding an article for underwater use having a relatively small thickness in relation to its dimensions in plan including providing a mould for the article,

locating or forming one or more inserts on a mould face which will define a part of the surface of the moulded article,

introducing the a silicone material to be moulded into the mould,

providing attachment means with an irregular surface in contact with the material, the material having very low friction surfaces and anti-fouling properties.

maintaining the mould in such an orientation while the material hardens and mechanically bonds to the attachment means, such that the ~~said~~ mould face is inclined to the horizontal at an angle at which the or each insert is retained on the ~~said~~ face against slipping by friction during the hardening of the material, and

providing gas-outlet means from an upper part of the mould in the ~~said~~ orientation to allow the escape of gases during the moulding process.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26 wherein the attachment means is a sheet.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26 wherein the attachment means is flexible.

29. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26 wherein the irregular surface of the attachment means comprises a mechanically scuffed surface.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26 wherein the irregular surface of the attachment means comprises a chemically etched surface.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26 wherein the irregular surface of the attachment means comprises a ribbed surface.

32. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26 wherein the irregular surface of the attachment means comprises an array of short hairs or bristles.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26 wherein the attachment means is provided with knit loops.

34. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 33 wherein the attachment means has a looped Velcro-like surface.

35. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 33 wherein the attachment means is a velour.

36. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26 wherein the attachment means comprises an impermeable material.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26 wherein the attachment means comprises a vinyl material.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 37 wherein the vinyl material is poly vinyl chloride.

39. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 26, in which, during the introduction of the material to be moulded, the mould is supported in an orientation in which the ~~said~~ mould face is substantially horizontal and, after the introduction, is moved to an inclined orientation at an angle at which the or each insert is retained on the mould face against slipping by friction, for the article to set, cure or harden.

40. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 26, in which at least one insert is retained in the finished moulded article.

41. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 40, in which the ~~said~~ at least one insert to be retained is a partially-cured moulded article which sets, cures or hardens and bonds to the moulding material as this latter itself sets, cures or hardens.

42. (Previously presented) A method as in Claim 41, in which a plurality of the said inserts are moulded in a single mould body so shaped that the inserts have a predetermined spacing and orientation, which is maintained as the inserts are transferred to their position on the said mould face.

43. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 41, in which the or each insert to be retained is moulded directly on the mould face by means of subsidiary mould means which are removed when the insert has cured sufficiently to be at least substantially cohesive.

44. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 41, in which the subsidiary mould means comprise a template having cut-out portions defining the or each insert, and material for forming the insert is applied to the apertures in the template.

45. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 44, in which the template is placed in contact with the said mould face and the material for forming the insert applied thereto by spatula and scraped off level with the surface of the template.

46. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 42, in which a transfer sheet is applied to a partly cured insert to maintain the component parts thereof in a predetermined relative orientation and/or spacing upon transfer from the said mould body to the said mould face.

47. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43, in which the template is cut by a cutter controlled by computer means which is programmable to determine the shape or shapes of the cut-out portions to be changed to form different inserts.

48. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for moulding an article having a relatively small thickness in relation to its dimensions in plan comprising a shallow mould part with a flat mould face which will define an under surface of the moulded article, inserts or means for forming inserts for location on the said mould face, attachment means for mechanical bonding to the material, means for closing the mould, means for supporting the closed mould in an orientation in which the said mould face is inclined to the horizontal at an

angle at which the or each insert is retained on the said mould face against slipping by friction, and means for venting gas from an upper part of the mould in the inclined position of the mould.

49. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign for underwater use having a relatively small thickness in relation to its dimensions in plan comprising a layer of moulded material in a first colour and containing at least one pre-moulded insert of a second colour, the sign further comprising attachment means moulded into the sign, wherein the attachment means has first and second major faces opposite one another, wherein the first major face is moulded in contact with the layer of moulded material of the first colour, and the second major face is left exposed, and wherein the first major face has an irregular surface.

50. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign according to Claim 49 wherein the attachment is a sheet.

51. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign according to Claim 49 wherein the attachment means is flexible.

52. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign according to Claim 49 wherein the irregular surface of the attachment means comprises a mechanically scuffed surface.

53. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign according to Claim 49 wherein the irregular surface of the attachment means comprises a chemically etched surface.

54. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign according to Claim 49 wherein the irregular surface of the attachment means comprises a ribbed surface.

55. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign according to Claim 49 wherein the irregular surface of the attachment means comprises an array of short hairs or bristles.

56. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign according to Claim 49 wherein the attachment means is provided with knit loops.

57. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign according to Claim 49 wherein the attachment means has a looped Velcro-like surface.

58. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign according to Claim 49 wherein the attachment means is a velour.

59. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign according to Claim 49 wherein the attachment means comprises an impermeable material.

60. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign according to Claim 49 wherein the attachment means comprises a vinyl material.

61. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign according to Claim 60 wherein the vinyl material is poly vinyl chloride.

62. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign as claimed in Claim 49, in which the said at least one insert is partially-cured.

63. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign as claimed in Claim 49, in which the said at least one insert is bonded to the layer of moulded material of the first colour.

64. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign as claimed in Claim 49 comprising a plurality of the said inserts.

65. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign as claimed in Claim 64, in which the plurality of inserts have a predetermined spacing and orientation.

66. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign as claimed in Claim 49, in which the moulded material is silicone.

67. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign as claimed in Claim 49, in which the moulded material has very low friction surfaces and anti-fouling properties.

68. (Withdrawn) A moulded sign as claimed in Claim 49, in which the second major face is left exposed for attachment to another object.